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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH

RM/R-E-1

FROM : AmEmbassy, ANKARA

DATE: November 9, 1962

SUBJECT : Akis Article on Missile Bases in Turkey.

REF :

There follows a free translation of an article appearing in the November 2, 1962 issue of Akis, the Time of Turkey. It was written by Metin Toker, son-in-law of the Prime Minister:

"Don't be ridiculous" - Metin Toker

"It would be beneficial to underline certain points in the minds of all and also in the minds of some of our allies, in connection with the recent Cuba crisis.

Turkey is not in love with the idea of having missile bases and atomic war-heads on her territory. However, these are not in Turkey because similar ones are based in Cuba. Turkey is a country which considers her defense to be within NATO. Upon Soviet preparations in (Eastern) Europe, NATO, for strategic reasons, deemed it necessary to establish missile bases in Turkey, in order that her members would be able to defend themselves against an attack. Turkey, as a reliable ally, made her territory available. Those who expect Turkey to yell in fear and anxiety and terror 'Take these away', in order that Russia would remove the missiles she subsequently placed in Cuba or that a war may be avoided, can wait from now to doomsday. Missiles have come to our land according to a NATO decision, not from any other place.

World peace and disarmament are matters which Turkey desires, more than anyone else. When certain combinations change, naturally there will be changes in NATO strategy as well. If NATO decides that elimination of bases will not be harmful to her and Turkey's defense, then we will tell them 'bye,bye'. (But) if they are considered vital, they will remain in

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Clearances:

place. This is not a matter between us and Russia, or even between America and Russia. It is a matter to be viewed in readjustment of relations between the Western Bloc and the Eastern Bloc.... It has been of benefit to us to see by this crisis that although leaders may go; the mentality behind them is not as easily eliminated. Another valuable experience is: America is no coward and that there is no question of their abandoning us at the first sign of danger....as has been whispered in our ears. The recent Soviet proposal 'You take your weapons out of Turkey, and we will take ours out of Cuba and the matter will be closed', was immediately and without hesitation refused by Washington.

Turkey's policies are built on the principle that her independence... is guaranteed. This guarantee, we feel, is that action against Turkey would mean a nuclear war. No one should doubt this. The fact that attempts to draw a parallel between Turkey and Cuba in the recent crisis, were not given serious consideration, have proved this fact, once again.

Turkey is a reliable ally and it appears that Turkey has reliable allies."

For the Ambassador:

Philip Clock
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Counselor of Embassy